

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

SOUTHERN LAND OFFICE

STATE OF MONTANA

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AIRPORT BUSINESS PARK
1371 RIMTOP DRIVE
BILLINGS, MT 59105-1978

12 September 2011

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is beginning an analysis under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) of the impacts that may occur on Public Trust land that is located between the low water marks of the Yellowstone River in the SW¼SW¼ of Section 15, Township 2 South, Range 24 East in Yellowstone County.

ExxonMobil Pipeline Company has applied for a Land Use License from the DNRC to temporarily occupy the bed of the Yellowstone River south of Laurel in order to remove the segment of the ruptured Silvertip Pipeline that is located between the high water marks of the Yellowstone River. Prior to commencing extrication, ExxonMobil will send divers into the Yellowstone River to visually assess the condition of the pipeline and any nearby debris to determine the best method of removal. It is expected that some portions of the pipeline can be removed by crane without disturbance of the river bottom, while other areas will require trenching. The area that will most likely require trenching is the gravel bar/island and high water channel which are located near the north shore of the river, east of the US Highway 212/310 Bridge.

DNRC is accepting comments on the request to issue a Land Use License to remove the segment of the ruptured Silvertip Pipeline that is located between the high water marks of the Yellowstone River. If you have comments, they will be accepted until **5 p.m. on Wednesday, 21 September 2011** and can be sent to:

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Questions regarding the proposed project can be directed to Jeff Bollman at jbollman@mt.gov or (406) 247-4404.